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## Richard C. Bridges to his sister Matilda, 16 August 1863

Richard C. Bridges

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Camp near Orange Co. House Va

Dear Sister Matilda August 16<sup>th</sup> 1862

I hear that our mail communication is opened to Jackson and as there is some chance of getting a letter through I will try to write to you As you will see I am again in camp When I returned to my command I found them at Culpepper since then we have fallen back and made the Rapidan river our base as well as our line of defense My health is very bad and has been so for the last week I was first taken with a bad case of the diarrhea with fever since then I have been threatened with that great camp malady camp fever, I am still a little sick and very weak Although our doctor says I am getting well, I was in hopes that I would never be troubled

with sickness in camp again But-alas  
I fear that I will still be subject  
to my old summer attacks While I  
was lying sick in my bivouac how I  
wished to be at home with my friends  
One can scarcely appreciate the luxury  
of home life until he has lain out in  
camp tortured with a burning fever  
Then the soldier's heart grows faint  
and he feels as if to be at home would  
be the greatest of earthly blessings  
I have been <sup>fortunate</sup> very thus far ~~so far~~  
as health is concerned for which I  
am very thankful — I do not  
think we are at all likely to have  
another battle here in a month at  
least-Both our army and that of  
the enemy was so badly cut-up in  
the battle of Gettysburg that neither  
will hardly be able to assume the  
offensive in a month yet But-you  
may listen to hear of another big



battle in Va about the last of  
September, As for myself I have  
no fears of the result The army  
of Northern Virginia cannot be  
be whipped in an equal fight-

A great many of our people  
seem to have grown despondent  
from our recent reverses Now I  
feel as much as any one the loss  
of our gallant old fortress Vicksburg  
I know this was truly the most un-  
kindest cut of all but so long as  
we know there is a just-creator  
and Ruler above who doeth all  
things well we should not-despair  
in this our righteous cause God  
being our helper we will yet bear  
steadily on through the dark storm  
of war to an harbor of peace and  
independence And although I may  
never live to see that glorious day  
of happiness I hope to be one who

coming generations will consider as a  
benefactor of my country —

I saw Jim Alford a few days ago he  
was in good health and apparently  
in fine spirits He says ~~he says~~ he  
stood the Pen. Campaign like a veteran  
Frank Ray was taken prisoner while on  
skirmish with the enemy He was in an  
old house when the yanks drove in our  
skirmishers and Frank was last seen  
defending his fort (the old house) to the  
best of his ability. It is supposed  
that he was overpowered and had to  
haul down his colors and surrender  
Bucksburg Still some our boys were  
caught in the same old house I forgot  
to enquire for Billy Gray I saw Jim only  
for a minute or two Hugh has been app-  
ointed adjutant in Miss Cavalry Battall  
Tell Mr. M I would like above all things  
to have one of his melons here this mor-  
ning but I do not expect to taste a  
melon this year Good bye dear sister  
I must close R C Brides